

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 20736 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/007918	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 15.07.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 15.07.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B32B31/12, B32B15/08		
Applicant HEINRICH STRUNZ GMBH		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.	
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>10</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.	
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows: <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).	
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application	

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-5 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 1-30 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/3-3/3 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Claims 1-17, 19, 25, 27, 28

YES

Claims 18, 20-24, 26, 29, 30

NO

Inventive step (IS)

Claims

YES

Claims 1-17, 19, 25, 27, 28

NO

Industrial applicability (IA)

Claims

1-30

YES

Claims

NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claim 1

Document D1 (EP-A-1 044 796) discloses a method for the production of a laminate, said method comprising the following steps:

- introducing a continuous, non-polymer web of a semi-finished product (see column 4, line 21) into an aperture in a belt press;
- sealing the semi-finished product web relative to the aperture (sealing is automated due to the presence of a second belt press (figure 4));
- applying a curable plastics material to the semi-finished product web (see column 3, lines 30 and 31);
- curing the plastics material, thereby causing the plastics material and the semi-finished product web to bond.

The subject matter of claim 1 differs from the method known from D1 by virtue of the use of a process film.

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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This feature has already been used for the same purpose (preventing undulation: see D2 (DE-A-34 13 053), page 3, lines 15-17) in a similar laminating method (see document D2, in particular figure 1 and the related description, pages 4 and 5) bands 3 and 4 being regarded as process foils. For a person skilled in the art, it would therefore be obvious that the feature known from D2 can also be applied in a straightforward manner and to like effect to a laminating method as per document D1. In this way, he would arrive at a laminating method as per claim 1, without thereby being inventive.

In consequence, the subject matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step and said claim fails to satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(3).

Claims 2-9

Dependent claims 2-9 disclose features that are:

- either known from D1 (for example, compare the introduction, as per the present claim 3, of a reinforcing material into the curable plastics material with D1, paragraph 7);
- or within the design experience of a person skilled in the art, see for example the evacuation process as per the present claim 5.

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**Claim 10**

Document D1 also discloses a device for carrying out the method disclosed in said document (see figure 4).

Thus, the subject matter of claim 10 differs from the laminating device known from D1 in that a material store is provided for the continuous output of a process film.

These features (material store and process film) have already been used for the same purpose (preventing undulation: see D2 (DE-A-34 13 053), page 3, lines 15-17) in a similar laminating method (see document D2, in particular figure 1 and the description, pages 4 and 5, bands 3 and 4 being regarded as process foils. For a person skilled in the art, it would therefore be obvious that the feature known from document D2 can also be applied in a straightforward manner and to like effect in a laminating method as per document D1. In this way, said expert would arrive at a laminating device as per claim 1, without thereby being inventive.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 10 does not involve an inventive step and said claim fails to satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(3).

Claims 11-17

Dependent claims 11-17 disclose features which are either:

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- known from D1 (for example, compare the conveying means, as per the present claim 16, with D1, paragraph 7); or
- within the design experience of a person skilled in the art (for example the heating and tempering plates according to the present claim 15).

Claim 18

Document D1 (EP-A-1 044 796) discloses a method for the production of a laminate, said method comprising the following step:

- preparing a supporting surface (one of the two band presses is considered to be a supporting surface);
- introducing a continuous, non-polymer web of a semi-finished product (see column 4, line 21) into an aperture in a belt press;
- sealing the semi-finished product web relative to the aperture (sealing is automated due to the presence of a second belt press (figure 4));
- applying a curable plastics material to the semi-finished product web (see column 3, lines 30 and 31);
- curing the plastics material, thereby causing the plastics material and the semi-finished product web to bond.

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

The feature concerning the "preparation of at least one optional process film" is purely optional and, in consequence, does not restrict the scope of protection of the claim.

Thus, the subject matter of claim 18 lacks novelty and said claim fails to meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(2).

Claims 19-25

Dependent claims 19-25 disclose features that are either:

- known from D1 (for example, compare the introduction of reinforcing material into the curable plastics material, as per the present claim 20, with D1, paragraph 7); or
- within the design experience of a person skilled in the art (for example the evacuation process as per the current claim 21).

Claim 26

Document D1 also discloses a device for carrying out the known method (see figure 4) as per claim 18. Thus, D1 discloses all the device features required for carrying out the method of interest.

In consequence, the subject matter of claim 26 lacks novelty and said claim fails to meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(2).

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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Claims 26-29

Claims 26-29 disclose features that are:

- either known from D1 (for example, compare the device for storing and outputting reinforcing material, as per the present claim 28, with D1, paragraph 7); or
- within the design experience of a person skilled in the art, for example the outputting of adhesive strips as per the present claim 28.

Claim 30

D1 also discloses the product, namely a plastics-metal laminate (see paragraph 5), produced by means of the method known from said document.

Since the plastics-metal laminate is intended for the same type of application (motor vehicle construction) as that to which the present application relates (see the summary of invention in D1), it has been assumed that the ballistic properties are identical.

In consequence, the subject matter of claim 30 lacks novelty and said claim fails to satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(2).

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Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

1. Contrary to PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii), the description does not cite documents D1 or D2 or indicate the relevant prior art disclosed therein.
2. The independent claims have not been drafted in the two-part form defined by PCT Rule 6.3(b). Accordingly, the features known in combination from the prior art (document D1) should have been placed in the preamble (PCT Rule 6.3(b)(i)) and the remaining features specified in the characterising part (PCT Rule 6.3(b)(ii)). This applies in respect of the device claims as well as the method claims.
3. The requirements of the PCT Guidelines (paragraph 10.12(iii)) have not been complied with since there are two independent method claims and also two independent device claims.

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

1. **[German text only]** On page 8, "Halbzeugahn"
**[instead of "Halbzeugbahn", web of semi-finished
product]** is clearly a typographical error
2. The expressions "substantially non-polymer" and
"practically" render claims 1 and 8 unclear (PCT
Article 6) since these expressions do not have a
precise technical definition.